

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 221

By Miller

A RESOLUTION to honor Van D. Turner, Jr. for his many professional and civic accomplishments.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should honor those Tennesseans who have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, Van D. Turner, Jr., an attorney and partner in the Memphis firm of Brittenum Bruce, is one such consummate professional and dedicated public servant; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Turner's practice is concentrated in the areas of business litigation, business transactions, government relations, municipal law, and estate planning; and

WHEREAS, before joining Brittenum Bruce, Mr. Turner was of counsel at Butler, Snow, O'Mara, Cannada & Stevens, PLLC; prior to that, he served as Associate General Counsel for the Board of Education of the Memphis City Schools and as judicial law clerk for the Honorable Samuel Hardy Mays, Jr., federal judge for the United States District Court for the Western District of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Turner participates and has served on the board of directors of several legal professional organizations, including the American Bar Association, the National Bar Association, the Tennessee Bar Association, the Mississippi Bar Association, and the Memphis Bar Association. In addition, he has been active in a number of other professional, civic and community organizations, including the Economic Club of Memphis, Chairman of the Shelby County Democratic Party, Leo Bearman, Sr. American Inns of Court, Board of Directors for the Memphis Branch of the NAACP, Leadership Academy, and Leadership Memphis, among others; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Turner's most notable honors, among many, include being named as one of the *Memphis Business Journal's* 2007 "Top Forty Under 40" and *Super Law Magazine's*

Mid-South Rising Stars for 2010 and 2011 in the area of government relations, and serving as a White House Intern in the Office of Presidential Personnel during the Clinton Administration; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Turner has also served as an adjunct professor at the University of Memphis, C.C. Humphreys School of Law, LeMoyne-Owen College, and Southwest Tennessee Community College; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Turner earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1997, with Phi Beta Kappa and *magna cum laude* distinctions; and

WHEREAS, after serving as an Assistant Teacher of English with the Japanese Exchange and Teaching Program in Yamanashi, Japan, Mr. Turner returned to the United States and attended the University of Tennessee College of Law, where he earned his Doctor of Jurisprudence in 2002; and

WHEREAS, he is most grateful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Tamara "Tammie" Turner, M.Ed., and his children, Malik, Masai, and Malia; and

WHEREAS, Van D. Turner, Jr. has demonstrated his ongoing commitment to justice and equity under the law for all people, both as an attorney and a citizen, and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and recognize Van D. Turner, Jr. for his many professional and civic accomplishments, praise his excellence as an attorney, public servant, and human being, and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.